

**Statewide Interoperability Governance Board**  
**Minutes**  
**May 11, 2017**  
**1:30 AM**  
**Cogswell Building, Room 151**

**Members Present:**

Quinn Ness, MDOA/SITSD, Alternate - Acting Chair	Ron Baldwin, State CIO, Chairman
Geoff Feiss, MTA	Major Robert Armstrong, DOJ/MHP, Alternate
Clint Loss, MEMSA	Shantil Siaperas, MACO – Alternate
Jason Smith, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs	Chief Robert Drake – MSVFFA, Alternate
Captain Curt Stinson, MACOP	Jon Swartz, MDT – Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Sarah Mitchell, MDOA/SITSD

**Guests Present:** Jon Straughn, MDOC; Justin Shore, FirstNet; Tracy Murdock, FirstNet; Garrett Doyle, AT&T; Brad Steiner, Motorola Solutions; Mike Feldman, MDOJ/MHP; Roger Smith, L&C County; Wing Spooner, MDOA/SITSD; Dan Sullivan, MDOA/SITSD; Aidan Myhre, AT&T; Tara Thue, AT&T; Trudy Skari, MDOA/SITSD; Rhonda Sullivan, MDOA/SITSD; Dan Lloyd, Governor's Office.

☞ **Real-time Communication:** Charlie Gilmore, Lewis & Clark County; Sean Gallagher, MDNRC; Dale Osbourne, MDOJ/MHP; Sean Hansock, DNRC

**Welcome**

Quinn Ness, Acting Chairman, welcomed the council to the May 11, 2017 Statewide Interoperability Governance Board (SIGB) meeting. All members and guests were introduced.

**Minutes**

**Motion:** Curt Stinson made a motion to approve the April 13, 2017 minutes. Chief Drake seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Discussion**

**First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet): AT&T & State**

Justin Shore presented FirstNet and AT&T's plan for deploying the mobile broadband network in Montana. The presentation is located at <https://sitsd.mt.gov/Governance/Boards-Councils/SIGB>. Mr. Shore reviewed the provisions offered within the public-private partnership. The contract between FirstNet and AT&T involves a 25-year commitment. AT&T will conduct ongoing consultations with public safety entities throughout the 25-year contract to ensure that all needs are being met. FirstNet will provide 20MHz of spectrum and \$6.5B in funding to build out the nationwide public safety mobile broadband network. FirstNet will also act as an intermediate layer to convey public safety concerns to AT&T and hold them accountable for public safety across the country. Mr. Shore stated that FirstNet holds the license for this network. This license is scheduled for re-up in the year 2022. FirstNet is working in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure FCC criteria are met. The role of the SIGB is to advise the Governor regarding the FirstNet's state deployment plan and the opt-in, opt-out decision.

State plans will be available in June, 2017. The state plans will provide a picture of the initial five-year deployment and blueprints for expansion of coverage within the state. By opting into the FirstNet plan, states are giving permission to deploy this network, but are under no financial obligation. The decision whether to utilize this network will be in the hands of the individual public safety entities. Following the opt-in decision, customers will be required to establish a new account with AT&T and transfer existing services. Existing accounts will require a new contract with AT&T and FirstNet. Existing AT&T LTE devices can be easily rolled over to the FirstNet network. Rate plans will mirror traditional cellular service and will include SMS rate plans,

data plans, voice calling, roaming, nationwide service and device management.

States that elect to opt-out of this network are committing to construct, operate, maintain, and upgrade their own public safety communications network that interoperates with the FirstNet network for the next 25 years. Opt-out states will be required to complete several processes and work in conjunction with the federal government, FCC, and National Telecommunications and Information (NTIA) to establish a network compatible with the nationwide system. This will result in an approximately two-year delay in the establishment and deployment of state networks. In addition, opt-out states will be unable to receive the benefits of priority and preemption offered by the AT&T FirstNet network.

Garrett Doyle reviewed AT&T's solution for the public-private partnership. AT&T has committed \$40B of investment for the public safety network. AT&T's existing \$180B infrastructure and services affords the FirstNet subscriber adoption to be actualized by the end of 2017. AT&T offers cybersecurity expertise to safeguard the public safety broadband network. Additional capabilities provided by AT&T include; expertise and engagement on standards bodies, the ability to shape the vendor community and work with a variety of service providers, and multiple partnerships. AT&T will incorporate the Band 14 spectrum into their network to provide a service specifically for the public safety network. This will be a competitively priced, specialized network providing priority and preemption to public safety subscribers across all 50 states. United States based call centers will be established to address the needs of the public safety network. Priority and preemption will be available for Montana First Responders by the end of 2017.

Mr. Doyle stated that the AT&T FirstNet network is not intended as a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) replacement. This network will, however, enable interoperability for push-to-talk on cellular devices.

Mr. Doyle addressed the issue of coverage on the FirstNet network. Coverage will be available across the existing AT&T Long-Term Evolution (LTE) network in Montana. This network currently covers a high percentage of Montana's geographic population. Mr. Doyle acknowledged that coverage may be an issue in some areas of Montana due to the large geographic nature and sparse population. The biggest challenge to the AT&T FirstNet network in Montana is a misperception regarding the coverage provided by AT&T. This coverage has been greatly expanded in recent years. AT&T is aware of their need to educate the communities in Montana regarding the coverage they offer. Coverage will continue to expand as the deployment and build out phases of this project are completed. AT&T has additional spectrum capabilities that can be leveraged in the future to expand this network. In addition, utilization of emerging technology may offer solutions to further reduce coverage issues. AT&T will continue to explore alternate means of communication, not currently offered in the marketplace, to develop offerings specifically target towards public safety communication needs. AT&T will ensure all services are functional on both the commercial and FirstNet networks.

Mr. Doyle clarified that there is no roaming agreement with Verizon and AT&T. Additionally, AT&T is not allowed to broadcast in Verizon's spectrum and vice versa. This means that FirstNet public safety communication devices will only function on the AT&T FirstNet network and in areas where that network coverage is available. AT&T does have rural carriers in Montana that are part of the AT&T footprint. This will provide additional coverage and roaming capabilities for users of the AT&T FirstNet network. Negotiations are in progress to align rural carriers with FirstNet network requirements.

Mr. Doyle provided an explanation of deployables. AT&T operates a national disaster recovery team consisting of 300 vehicles which are deployed, at the request of the states, when a disaster occurs. AT&T has committed 72 additional SatCOLTs (Satellite Cell on Light Truck) to the FirstNet contract. SatCOLTs are mobile communications platforms that include a self-contained truck, transmission lines, electronic equipment, radio transmitting and receiving antennas, and supporting/ancillary equipment and structures. These vehicles will be housed in a specific region to facilitate a mutual aid scenario. Vehicle allocation will vary depending on the time of year and geographic disaster potentials such as fire or hurricane season.

Mr. Shore summarized the responses to the proposed network from reservation communities. The Blackfeet and Crow communities recognize the need for this network and are excited about the possibilities. Tribal

communities recognize the potential for economic development and community usage of this network. Several of these communities do not currently have Long-Term Evolution (LTE) broadband service. The use of deployables will provide tribal public safety entities the ability to utilize this network to address issues that occur in remote areas of tribal land.

Mr. Doyle provided clarification regarding the contracts involved in the FirstNet network. There is a contract between AT&T and FirstNet Federal, which functions as a federal government entity. Local agencies wishing to utilize the FirstNet offering will establish a separate contract with AT&T utilizing existing contract vehicles. Per contract requirements, AT&T carries the responsibility for the network build out and user adoption. There are adoption targets that AT&T must meet to satisfy this contract. This will promote network build out, cost effectiveness, and maintenance of customer satisfaction. Mr. Doyle noted that there is no forced migration for current AT&T subscribers. Individuals may retain their existing AT&T plans but will experience different customer care than individuals on the FirstNet network.

**Action Item:** Mr. Doyle will meet with Chief Drake to discuss migration of current, AT&T supported, First Responder devices to the FirstNet network.

Ms. Murdock reviewed the timeline for state plans. A national kickoff meeting will take place June 7-8, 2017. Each State Point of Contact (SPOC) will be invited to Dallas, Texas to introduce state plans and communicate state requirements. SPOC teams have received a guidance package that include a checklist, portal preview, content areas, terms of use, and steps to take in preparation for the Governor's decision. All State plans will be released in June, 2017. States have up to 45 days to review the plan and make comments via the portal. FirstNet will meet with the SIGB to discuss and address any questions or concerns after their review of the state plan. FirstNet then has up to 45 days to review suggestions and make appropriate adjustments. Following these adjustments, the SIGB will provide the Governor with a recommendation regarding the opt-in or opt-out decision.

**Action Item:** Mr. Ness will add FirstNet as a standing agenda item to provide regular updates to the SIGB.

Mr. Ness recommended changing the date of the June SIGB meeting to accommodate the June 7-8 AT&T FirstNet national kickoff meeting and allow the board time to review the state plan. Mr. Ness suggested scheduling a question and answer working session with AT&T and FirstNet to expedite the process.

**Action Item:** FirstNet and AT&T will attend the June 29, 2017 SIGB meeting.

#### **HB:604: Open Discussion**

Michael Feldman stated that House Bill 604 passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor on May 7, 2017 with no funding attached. The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2017 and establishes the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ), Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) as the administrator for the statewide trunked land mobile radio (LMR) system. House Bill 604 establishes an advisory council, focused on sustainability of the statewide trunked LMR system, to advise DOJ/MHP in matters related to the system. This council will identify roles and responsibilities for individuals within MHP regarding the system. MHP is developing a list of advisory council nominees to be submitted to the Governor for approval and appointment. MHP is working on a funding plan, communication systems plan, updated equipment inventory, mission statement, and user outreach program to collect input regarding issues they have encountered with public safety communications.

Mr. Ness stated that a transition will take place with the SIGB and the new advisory council. The executive order that created the SIGB expires on October 1, 2017. As the new DOJ/MHP advisory council becomes established, a new executive order will be developed for the SIGB to identify requirements and directives of the board for FirstNet and FirstNet's state plan and the opt-out decision. The statewide LMR System directives stated in the current executive order will need to be transfer to the new advisory council at DOJ/MHP. SIGB will

continue to engage with FirstNet until the new advisory council can be established. Dual membership by some individuals on both SIGB and the DOJ advisory council would be helpful in this transition.

**Action Item:** Public Safety Communications Bureau staff will assist in the transition from the SIGB to the DOJ advisory council.

Mr. Ness suggested that a recommendation to the Governor regarding the continuation of the SIGB be drafted to include ongoing consultation with AT&T and FirstNet if this network is deployed.

Mr. Baldwin recommended the continuation of the SIGB with an overarching perspective that intersects with the 9-1-1 Advisory Council, Next Generation 9-1-1, and the new advisory council to provide a broader support base for public safety agencies, laws, and policies. SIGB may also provide support for the convergence of new technologies into the statewide trunked LMR system.

**Action Item:** Mr. Ness will add House Bill 604 to the June 29, 2017 SIGB agenda.

#### **Public Comment**

Brad Steiner voiced support for maintaining the SIGB as a functional group to encourage interoperability and coordinate the integration of new technology into all public safety communications systems in the state.

#### **Next Meeting**

June 29, 2017

1:30 AM to 3:30 AM

Cogswell Building, Room 151

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM.